

News from SALEM COUNTY

Office of Public Information

Mr. Robin B. Weinstein, Public Information Officer

Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8202 After Hours: (856) 297-5433

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 15, 2008

COUNTY HOSTS SECOND ANNUAL DISABILITY MENTORING DAY

(SALEM, NJ)—Freeholders Jeffrey J. Hogan and Julie Acton today welcomed thirteen participants to the Second Annual County Disability Mentoring Day (DMD). The event, which is part of the County's Diversity Initiative, was designed to bring students and job seekers with disabilities into the workplace where they can learn about various career opportunities.

"The Freeholder Board is committed to celebrating diversity and ensuring that no one is overlooked," said Freeholder Hogan. "Disability Mentoring Day is intended to expand the participants' awareness of employment opportunities with the County, as well as provide our departments with an enlarged pool of candidates for employment."

Through the County DMD, job seekers were paired with career professionals to learn what it means to work within County government- observe a typical workday, identify necessary skills, and learn about possible internships or employment prospects. While DMD is a one-day event, mentors and mentees are encouraged to stay in touch after the event.

"Mentoring is an invaluable experience for the mentor and the student, advancing career development and personal growth," said Freeholder Acton. "Disability Mentoring Day enhances our County government and workforce by providing community members and employees an opportunity to interact and learn from each other."

Mentees arrived by 9:00 am and were greeted with introductory remarks by the Freeholders, County Administrator Earl Gage, and Deputy County Administrator Robin Weinstein. Mentors worked with mentees throughout the morning. The event concluded at noon with lunch in the Freeholder Meeting Room.